



## ***Australian Education Union - Federal Office***

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### **TAFE FUTURES – A NATIONAL INQUIRY**

The Australian Education Union today announced the establishment of an independent inquiry into the future of TAFE.

The TAFE Futures Inquiry will be conducted by respected academic Dr Peter Kell.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne, said the Inquiry was urgently needed to determine the future role and direction of TAFE in the vocational education system.

“TAFE is a great Australian institution which has provided education and training for millions of Australians,” she said.

“But it is being starved of resources and there is no clear vision for its future.

“We have to ask whether we really want a TAFE system which is turning away up to 48,000 Australians a year at the same time as employers are saying that there is a growing skills crisis and an increasing reliance on overseas guest workers?

“Do we want a TAFE system where government funding is cut every year and colleges are forced to keep putting up fees and cutting courses as is currently the case?

“Do we really want a TAFE system where 60 per cent of teachers are not permanent and where some colleges have facilities that are sub-standard and unsuited for training Australians?

“Do we want a TAFE system that trains people for jobs in the 20<sup>th</sup> century or one that is equipped to train people for the working challenges of this century?

“Australians are not getting the TAFE system they deserve. As we saw in last week’s budget, the Federal Government has failed to provide the money required to train Australians to meet the skills shortage.

“The Federal Government is also not providing the funding or the leadership to make sure TAFE is able to meet the educational demands of Australians.

“State and territory governments have also under-funded the TAFE system,” said Ms Byrne.

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